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COMPLIMENTS OF SPENCER MILLER

Reprint from Jan. 1936, number of the *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*

EARLY ANCESTORS OF

ABBOTT, DENISON AND WILLIE FAMILIES

OF

BISHOP'S STORTFORD
County Herts, England

Contributed by
DR. SPENCER MILLER
Member of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

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WILLIE, DENISON AND ABBOTT FAMILIES OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD, CO. HERTS, ENGLAND

CONTRIBUTED BY DR. SPENCER MILLER
Member of the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society

In the July 1930 RECORD, I contributed three generations of the Abbott family in Bishop's Stortford, Co. Herts, England, up to George Abbott (bap. May 22, 1617), who settled in Andover, Mass. in 1643. Since then a personal search of Parish Registers of nearly thirty churches in and near Bishop's Stortford has yielded valuable data respecting early ancestors of the Abbott and Denison families, who emigrated from Bishop's Stortford to New England between 1630 and 1640. This new data makes it necessary to modify and add to my July 1930 contribution.

John Denison, the father of William Denison of Roxbury, Mass., died of the plague and was buried in Bishop's Stortford, Dec. 4, 1582, leaving his widow Agnes Denison, who married John Gase (Gace) the "first daye of Maye 1584." In several genealogies, notably one published in Cutter's *New England Families* (1913 ed., p. 57), it was asserted that the widow Agnes was a sister of Thomas Miller, Bridgett Abbott and Margaret Hake. This error apparently arose from a misinterpretation of the following:

Feet of Fines, Herts, Easter, 38 Elizabeth, 1596.

Final agreement made in the Queen's Court at Westminster, from Easter Day in one month, 38 Elizabeth, before the Queen's Justices there, between John Gace & Thomas Myller, plaintiffs, & George Abbott & Bridget his wife, Edward Hake, gent. & Margaret his wife, deforciants, of 2 messuages, 1 barn, 2 gardens, one orchard & 5 acres of land in Bishop's Stortford als. Stortford, whereof a plea of covenant was summoned between them, that is, that the said George, Bridget & Edward & Margaret have acknowledged the same to be the *right of John*, as of their gift & that they have remised & *quit-claimed* for themselves & their heirs to the said John & Thomas & the heirs of John, for ever. And further for themselves & the heirs of George & Edward have granted to warrant John & Thomas & the *heirs of John* in the same against themselves & the heirs of George & Edward for ever. For which grant, acknowledgement, &c., John & Thomas have given them 80 sterling. (Herts).

This new data proves that John Denison's widow was Agnes Willie; George Abbott's wife was Bridgett Willie; Edward Hake's wife Margaret may have been a Willie. But to interpret the relationship of John Gace, tanner, (2nd husband of Agnes Willie, *widow* of John Denison) & Mr. Thomas Miller, M.A., owner of Dane O'Coys, is most difficult. If Thomas Miller married Agnes

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Denison, sister of John Denison, or a Willie sister, he would be brother-in-law to John Gace's wife and George Abbott's wife. Furthermore, if Thomas Miller married the sister or daughter of John Gace, then the relationship would be understood. However, the identity of the wife of Thomas Miller is not established, excepting that her name was Agnes to her later children and possibly all of them.

The Will of John Gace (29 Aug. 1602), published on p. 655 of Waters *Genealogical Gleanings in England*, provided for the use of the poor a sum to be paid "to James Morley, Gent, Thomas Perye, Gent, John Miller the elder and '*Maister' Thomas Miller*". This Will was witnessed by four men, one of whom was *George Abbott.**

Thomas Miller lived 11 years after the birth of Joseph Miller, the last of 13 children, and his mother Agnes lived 27 years after Joseph was born.

Thorley Search

The history of Thorley reaches back before the year 1086, for the Manor of Thorley is mentioned in the Doomsday Book. St. James Church was more than 200 years old before the Parish Register began (1539). Its first pastor was instituted in 1327. Rev. Robert Wylly was rector from 1474 to 1493 and may have been the grandfather of John Willie who married Joan Marsead. Thorley is 29 miles north of London. Its population as late as 1801 was only 269—in 55 houses. In 1901 it had 622 in the Ecclesiastical Parish.

With the aid of the Rev. J. E. I. Procter, M.A., Rector of St. James Parish, Thorley, in the rural deanery of Bishop's Stortford, I transcribed from the Thorley Parish Register the following:

1540, Oct. 30, John Willie, married Joan Marsead.†
1541, Aug. 4, John Willie, baptized.
1543, Nov. 8, "Emmerit" Willie, baptized (possibly intended for Emma, and possibly changed to Agnes).
1548, Nov. 13, Mary Willie, baptized.
1551, Feb. 1, Bridgett Willie, baptized.
1561, May 11, *John Denison married Agnes Willie.*

This last entry establishes the family name of Agnes, widow of John Denison, to be Willie and not Miller. In the writing of the period, a capital letter M was quite similar to the capital letter W. The Rev. Procter long experienced in deciphering the early writings pronounced the word to be *Willie* and the proof appears in the Wills of John Denison and John Willie, abstracts of which follow.

No more entries of Denisons or Willies were found between 1561 and 1583, for John Denison had moved to Bishop's Stortford.

1583, Jul. 21, Joan Willie, dau. of Edward (son of John Willie) bap. Witnesses: George Willie, Susanna Adams.
1583, Sep. 13, Mary Dennison, dau. of William (bro. of John Denison) bap.

Baptisms and Burials in Stortford

The following were transcribed from the Parish Register of St. Michaels Church, Bishop's Stortford: ‡

1567 Aug. 3, Luce Denyzen baptized.
1571 Feb. 3, Will'm Denyson "
1575 Apr. 6, Edward Denyson "

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* From 1504 to 1611 years ran from Palm Sunday to Palm Sunday. After 1611 years ran from Eastern Monday to Easter Monday. (Glasscock's Church Record.)

† A search through several books of English surnames fails to reveal the name Marsead—perhaps Marshall was intended.

‡ Photostats of Glasscock's Transcription of the Stortford Parish Register from 1561 are in the New York Public Library.

1577 Apr. 28, Mary Denyson baptized.
1579 Aug. 23, Elizabeth Denyson "
1580 Apr. 27, Elizabeth *Welley* buried.
1582 Dec. 4, John Denison "
1582 Dec. 9, Luce, daughter of John Denison buried.
1582 Mar. 17, George Denison son of John baptized.
1602 Dec. 10, Henry Munck buried.
1603 Feb. 19, Anne daughter of Edward Denysen baptized.
1603 Nov. 7, Will'm Denison & Margaret Monck *married* *
1605 Apr. 7, "John ye sonne of WILLIAM DENNYSONNE" baptized.
1605 Nov. 24, "Susan ye daughter of Edward Denyson" "
1606 Oct. 5, "Willia ye sonne of WILLIA DENYZEN" "
1607 "WILLIAM DENISON, George Abbotte church wardens"
1608 Sep. 18, "Elizabeth ye daughter of Edward Denezen" baptized
1609 Oct. 15, "George ye sonne of WILLIAM DENISON" "
1612 Sep. 13, "John ye sonne of Edwarde Dennison" "
1612 Oct. 18, "Daniel the sonne of WILLIAM DENNISON" "
1614 Jun. 18, George was buried.
1615 Aug. 30, Elizabeth was buried.
1615 Oct. 8, "Sarah Denison daught'r of WILLM and Margaret" bap.
1615 Oct. 15, Sarah Denison daught'r of WILLM buried.
1616 Nov. 3, "Edward Denison sonne of WILLIAM & Margaret" bap.
1620 Dec. 10, "George Dennison sone of WILLM & Margaret" "
1639 Aug. 1, Two unbaptized children of George Denison buried.
1640 Aug. 20, "George Denyson the Elder" buried.
1643 Nov. 27, "George Denyson son of George" buried.
1676 Jan. 10, "Mr. John Dennison son of Mr. George" buried.
1678 Dec. 9, "Mr. George Dennison" buried.
1678 Mar. 22, "Mrs. Mary Dennison, widow, wife of Mr. George Dennison" buried.

WILLIE CHRONOLOGY—THORLEY

1474–1493 REV. ROBERT WYLLY, Rector in St. James Church in *Thorley*, Co. Herts (Rev. Procter's Hist. of St. James Parish).

1545 Agnes Wylley (of Thorley) and her son John pay'd subsidy tax in *Thorley* (Herts Genl. vol. 2, p. 275).

1548 John Wylley (of Thorley) Senior, buys of (his son) John Wylley, Jun. (probably a mortgage) 3 messuages and land in Thorley. This probably means John Jr., having a full family, takes the old home giving a mtg. to his father (Ibid. vol. 1, p. 201).

1560 John Wylley (perhaps of Thorley) *buys* of Thos. & Joan Chandler *lands in Thorley* (Ibid. vol. 1, p. 308).

1563 John Denyzon (and Agnes) buy a home and land in Stortford of John Chaundeler and wife Joan (Ibid. p. 338).

1573 Rich[d] Wyllye buys 3 messuages & land in Stortford from Wm. Pilston & Joan (Ibid. vol. 2, p. 134).

1573 Rich[d] Wyllye (son of John who died about 1558) & Wm. Pilston & wife Joan sells to Thos. Crabbe cottage in Stortford (Ibid vol. 2, p. 134).

1582 John Denison died of the plague leaving Agnes (Willie) his widow in Stortford.

1583 July 21, Joan Willie da. of Edward (bro. of Agnes) baptized in Thorley. George (bro. of Agnes) witness at baptism. (Thorley Par. Rec.)

1585 John Wryghte buys of Rich. Wylley and Agnes his wife *in Thorley*. (Ibid vol. 2, p. 344).

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* Margaret, widow of Monck, was Margaret Chandler bap. 1577.

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1586 Edward Wylley (of Thorley) & Elizabeth his wife sells land in Thorley (Herts Gen'l).
1586 Edward & Elizabeth Wyllye (of Thorley) sell lands in Thorley (Ibid.).
1590 John Helham buys of Rich Wyllye & Agnes two messuages and land in Thorley (Ibid.).
1596 John Gace & Thos. Miller: (buys of) George Abbott & Bridget his wife, Edward Hake gent. and Margaret, his wife, two messuages and land in Bishop's Stortford.*
1602 John Gace bur. Sept. 2. Will mentions "Maister" Thomas Miller and Geo. Abbott.
1610 Will of Nicholas Brett of Much Hadham, Co. Herts, Eng., mentions dau. Mary Willie & her husband George Willy (Herts Genl. vol. 3, p. 82).
1612 Will of George Willey of Thorley dated 10 Sept. 1612—wife Mary (Brett) (Ibid. p. 83).

The Willie Family of Thorley & Bishop's Stortford

Spelled Wyllaye, Wylleye, Welley, Willie, Willey, Wylly.

The will of Agnes Wylleye of Thorley, dated 13 June, 1555, leaves everything to her son John Wylleye. This Agnes Wylleye, evidently a widow, is probably she who in 1545 paid a subsidy tax of 12 pence in Thorley. In the same year, 1545, a John Willeye of Thorley paid a subsidy tax of 10 pence (Herts. Gen. Vol. 2, p. 276).

In Stortford in same year John Willeye paid 22 shillings and Edward Willey paid 3 shillings & 4 pence (Ibid. p. 277).

In "1548 John Wylley, Senior: (buys of) John Wylley, junior, 3 messuages and land in Thorley" (Herts Gen. Vol. 1, p. 201).

Thus we conclude that this Agnes was the widow of "John Wylley, senior" of Thorley and the mother of John Willie who married Joan Marsead. Also that in Bishop's Stortford a separate branch of the Willey family existed.

The will of John Wyllie of Thorley, Co. Herts is dated:—1 May 1574.—John Wyllie of Thorley Co. Hertf. yeoman. To be buried in the churche of Thorley agaynst my stole where commonly I sit—To my son Edward Wylleye the ten^{t}. where I now dwell & all its lands etc in Thorley & Sabridgworth (my free lands & 1 acre of copy in Donnynges) & 2 acres more copy in Broodly comonfeld—to him & his heires males with revercion to his brother George Willie. I have surrendered all my other copyholds in Thorley or elsewhere to my son *George Willie* & his heirs males with revercion to his brother Edward. Jone my wife shall have her living with Edward my son in Gaies half my house for life if unmarried—if Edward do marry & can not frame to dwell with his mother he shall dwell in my house where feald dwelleth & she in Gayes half & if she marry, the other way round. To my three daughters Mary, Bridget, & Grace Wylly £20 each. Residue to Jone my wife & Edward my son, exors. Overseer: my son-in-law John Denyson—to whom iij^{s}iij^{d}

Wit. Christopher Taton, clark, William Osborn, Wilm Barnard Pd at Stortford 8 March 1575. [Comm. London; Essex & Herts. (Original)]

This will mentions John's wife Joan and three children—Edward, George and Grace, not transcribed by the writer. Daughters Mary, Bridget and Grace receive £20 each, but fails to mention his daughter Agnes, wife of John Denison, whom she married in 1561, altho he appoints as his overseer "my son-in-law John Denison". Mary and Grace were probably unmarried and we know that Bridget was not then married to George Abbott for they had no children until 1581. Evidently Agnes had previously received her share.

John^{2} Willie (son of John^{1} & Agnes Willie of Thorley). b. —— d. 1574/5. Wife Joan Marsead b. —— d. ——. Married October 30, 1540.

* Wife of John Gace (Agnes *Willie*), wife of Geo. Abbott (Bridget *Willie*), wife of Edward Hake *may* have been Margaret Willie (Ibid. vol. 3, p. 225).

i. John[3], bp. Aug. 4, 1541.
ii. Emmeret[4](?), bp. Nov. 8, 1543.
iii. *Agnes*[3], bp. ——; m. John Denison, May 11, 1561, of whom more presently.
iv. Mary[3], bp. Nov. 13, 1548; m. Edward Ducket, Oct. 18, 1579. No baptisms in Stortford Register.
v. *Brigett*[3], bp. Feb. 1, 1551; m. George[2] Abbott (son of William[1] Abbott) about 1580 and she died Aug. 13, 1625 "widow and antiente". George Abbott was bur. in Stortford, Jan. 11, 1619. They had six children among them, George[3] bap. May 28, 1587, who mar. Elizabeth ——. Their first sone George[4] Abbott was bap. May 22, 1617 and died in Andover, Mass. 24 Dec. 1681. He mar. in Roxbury 12 Dec. 1646, Hannah Chandler, bp. in Bishop's Stortford 22 May, 1630. Hannah (Chandler) Abbott (widow) mar. 2nd Rev. Frances Dane of Andover, Mass. He was bap. at Bishop's Stortford 20 Nov. 1615. Hannah's mother Agnes (Bayford) Chandler, widow of Wm. Chandler of Stortford, Eng. & Roxbury, Mass. mar. 2nd John Dane, the father of Rev. Frances Dane. (N.E.H. G Reg. Jan. 1931).
vi. *Edward*[3], mentioned in will; m. Elizabeth Jardfield Jan. 18, 1581 and died —— 1615.
vii. George[3], mentioned in will; m. Mary Brett of Little Hadham 1583, dau. of Nicholas Brett, and died 1612.
viii. Grace[3], mentioned in will; m. Richard Walker 16 Oct. *1580*. Had one child Anne. Grace Walker was buried 29 Nov. 1583 without male issue.

A search through the Stortford (St. Michaels Church) Parish Register from 1561 fails to find any Denison marriages, baptisms or burials earlier than Dec. 4, 1582, the date of burial of John Denison. Glasscock's Records of St. Michaels fails to mention any Denison until 1582 (p. 61), "John Denyson pd. 9 pence".

In the three volumes of Herts Antiquary & Genealogist the earliest reference to a Denison is in the index where a William Denyson is listed among payers of subsidy tax 1545 in Hadham Parva (Little Hadham), a small town four miles west of Bishop's Stortford, where the Parish Register contains several references to Denisons (Vol. 1, p. 166). The next reference was in 1563 where John Denyson, who in 1561 had married Agnes Willey in Thorley, was recorded as purchasing a home in Bishop's Stortford from John and Joane Chandler. These Chandlers, by the way, had a daughter Margaret Chandler who married Wm. Denison in 1603 (Vol. 1, p. 338).

After 1631 the Denison family scattered to many lands leaving "Mr." George Denison, born in March 1582, (three months after his father John Denison had died with the plague). "Mr." George Denison was buried 1640. His son George and his wife Mary both died in 1678. There are no further entries in the Parish Register of Denison baptisms up to 1652.

Digest of Wills of George and John Denison—1676 and 1678—are published in N.E.H.G. Reg., Vol. 47, p. 409. These Wills name Robert Wolley, Mathew Wolley Executor—Cousen Wm Powell, Cousin Ann Read, bro. Thomas Goose—sister Ann Powell, etc. but no Denisons are mentioned.

Denisons lived in Bishop's Stortford from 1563 to 1678—115 years.

The Will of John Denison of Thorley, County Herts (Tailor), is dated, 10 November, 1582. (buried Dec. 4, 1582).—I commend my body to the earth, from whence it came.

I bequeath to my wife, Agnes (Willie), my tenement in Stortford, now in my tenure, for life, with remainder to my eldest son, John & the heirs of his body, with contingent remainders, in default of issue, to my 2nd son, William,

my 3d son, Edward, to my unborn child, (George) if a male; to my daughters, to Edward Willey & their heirs; in case it comes to said Edward Willey, he to pay *my brother William & my sisters, Jane & Agnes, £10 each.*

To my son, John, my bedstead in the parlour & £6.13.4 at the age of 21.
To my 2nd son, William, £20, at age of 21 (bap. 1571).
To my 3d son, Edward, 20 marks, at age of 21 (bap. 1575).
To my daughter, Luce, £20 at age of 18 (bap. 1567. bur. Dec. 9, 1582).
To my daughter, Elizabeth, 20 marks at age of 18 (bap. 1579).
To my unborn child, 20 marks (George bap. 17 Mar. 1572).
To George Grene's widow, of Much Hadham, 5s.
To George Abbott's wife, 10 s. (Bridget Willie, bap. Feb. 1551).
To Mary Willey, 20s. (bap. Oct. 10, 1553).
To Grace & George Willey, 10s each & to Edward Willey, 20s.
To the poor of Thorley, 6s. 8d.

Residuary legatee:—my wife, Agnes. Executors:—my wife & brother-in-law, Edward Willey. Overseers:—Piers Palmer, Nicholas *Brett.*

Signed:—(mark). Witnesses:—Willm. Hampton, John Clarke, Symon Nycoll.

Proved:—1 March, 1582–3, by John Brampton, proctor to the executors. (Commissary Court of London, Essex & Herts, 1 Mar. 1582–3).

This will of John Denison mentions his brother Wm. Denison and sisters Jane and Agnes. He bequeathed "To George Abbott's wife (Bridget Willie) 10s" and mentions "brother-in-law Edward Willey"—further proof that George Abbott's wife was Bridget Willie, sister of Agnes (Willie) Denison.

Denisons of Thorley, Co. Herts, England

John[1] Denison of Thorley had a brother William Denison and sisters Jane and Agnes Denison. John Denison moved to Bishop's Stortford before 1566, for in that year he was "collector for the poor" in Bishop's Stortford and in 1582 paid a tax in Stortford (Glasscock's Records).

John[1] Denison of Thorley, b. about 1540, died of the plague, buried in Stortford, Dec. 4, 1582; m. Agnes Willie, dau. of John & Joan (Marsead) Willie, bp. about 1544 died ——; m. 11 May, 1561 in St. James Church, Thorley; m. 2nd John Gace, tanner, who died Sept. 1602.

(I searched to 1645 without finding burial of Agnes (Willie) Denison Gace).

i. John[2], mentioned in will of John[1] Denison.
ii. Luce[2], bp. Aug. 3, 1567; bur. Dec. 9, 1582; d. of "the plague".
iii. William[2], bp. Feb. 3, 1571; m. 7 Nov. 1603, Margaret Chandler, widow of Henry Monck, church warden, Bishop's Stortford 1606, emigrated to New England 1631.
iv. Edward[2], bp. Apr. 6, 1575; had Ann[3], bp. 1603, John[3], 1605. Susan[3], 1605–6, Elizabeth[3], 1608, who died 1615, John[3], 1612. Moved to Ireland with family 1631, never returned. His son John[3] became a soldier, a major, and deputy Governor of Cork, Ireland.
v. Mary[2], bp. Apr. 28, 1577; probably mar. George Grene of Much Hadam, Co. Herts.
vi. Elizabeth[2], bp. Aug. 25, 1579; mar. —— Crouch.—John Gace's will 1602, reads "To Elizabeth Crouch my wifes daughter".
vii. George[2] bp. Mar. 17, 1582. Church warden 1633 to 1635. Probably m. Constance Glascock, widow of —— Gooch. Aug. 1, 1639, two infants of George Denison bur. He was bur. Aug. 20, 1640 as George Denison "the Elder". His son George[3] was bur. Dec. 9, 1678 as Mr. George "Dennison". His wife *Mary* was bur. Mar. 22, 1678/9. He was church warden 1648/9, "surveyor of highways" 1670; had sons George[4], bur. 1643 and John[4], bur. 1676. (See N.E.H. G. Register Vol. 46, p. 127: Autobiography of Major Gen. Daniel Denison.)

WILLIAM [2] DENISON of Bishops Stortford son of John [1] and Agnes (Willie) Denison of Thorley and Bishops Stortford, bp. Feb. 3, 1571 in Bishops Stortford —d. at Roxbury, Mass. Jan. 25, 1654. Mar. 7 Nov. 1603 in Bishops Stortford MARGARET CHANDLER, widow of Henry Monck (bur. 10 Dec. 1602), dau. of John & Joan Chandler, bp. 13 Oct. 1577, d. at Roxbury, Mass. 3 Feb. 1645/6.

i. John, bp. April 7, 1605.
ii. William, bp. Oct. 5, 1606; soldier to Holland 1624—never returned.
iii. George, bp. Oct. 15, 1609; bur. 18 June 1614.
iv. DANIEL, bp. Oct. 18, 1612; to N. E. 1631, became Major General died 1682 of whom more presently.
v. Sarah, bp. Oct. 7, 1615; bur. Oct. 13, 1615.
vi. EDWARD, bp. Nov. 3, 1616; to N. E. 1631, of whom more presently.
vii. George, bp. Dec. 10, 1620; to N. E. 1631; m. 1640 BRIDGET THOMPSON who was b. Sept. 11, 1622—dau. of John & Alice of Preston, Northamptonshire. After death of his wife 1643 went back to England, enlisted as a soldier and returned to New England. 2nd wife, Ann Borodell (See Wheeler Hist. Stonington, Conn.). For later generations see Hist. of Stonington, Conn. p. 334–361.

MAJOR GENERAL DANIEL [3] DENISON, son of William & Margaret (Chandler) Denison, born in Bishop's Stortford Oct. 18, 1612; died —— 1682; m. PATIENCE DUDLEY, dau. of Gov. Thomas Dudley.

i. John, bp. Jan. 20, 1641; died 1671; m. Martha, dau. of Gov. Samuel Symonds.
ii. Elizabeth, bap Apr. 1, 1642, d. 1723; mar. 1660 John Rogers, President Harvard College.
iii. Mary, b. 1651; died young.
iv. Deborah, b. 1654; " " .

The first three names are the same as given to Denison and Willey children in Bishop's Stortford and Thorley. (See Vol. 23 N. E. H.-G. Register p. 312; Felt's Ipswich)

EDWARD[3] DENISON, son of William & Margaret (Chandler) Denison, b. in Bishops Stortford, Nov. 3, 1616; d. Apr. 26, 1668 leaving only William and five daughters. His wife was ELIZABETH WELD born ——; married Mar. 20, 1641; d. Feb. 5, 1717.

i. Elizabeth, b. 1642.
ii. John, b. 1644; d. young
iii. Edward, b. ——; d. Oct. 6, 1646.
iv. Jeremiah, b. 1647; d. young.
v. Joseph, b. 1649; d. young.
vi. Margaret, b. 1650; m. Dan Mason.
vii. Mary, b. 1654.
viii. Hannah, b. 1655.
ix. Sarah, b. 1657.
x. Deborah, b. 1660; died young.
xi. William, b. Sept. 18, 1664; graduate Harvard College 1681; died Mar. 22, 1718.
xii. Deborah b. 1666; died young.

(See Wheeler's Hist. of Stoughton and Wheeler's History First Church, Roxbury, Mass.)

NOTE. Seven of these children were given the same names as those given the Denison and Willey children in Bishops Stortford and Thorley; to wit: Elizabeth, John, Edward, Margaret, Mary, Sarah, William.

The will of Edward[3] Willey, son of John[2] and Joan (Marsead) Willie, of Thorley, Co. Herts, yeoman, dated, 11 September, 1615. I bequeath to my daughter Joan (bap. 1583) £20, & to my daughter Sarah Willey, £5 & £15 more

at her age of 32, if she marry with consent of my wife Elizabeth, my son Edward, my cousin William Dennyson of Stortford. To my daughter Elizabeth, £5. & £15 (as above). To my daughter, Mary, the like. To my sons, George & Daniel Willey, £20. each at their ages of 24. To my wife my freehold tenement in Thorley called Allgooddes and my crofts called Eatherscroft and Gayeshall, with remainder to my son Edward. If my daughter, Joan, be dead, her legacy to be divided among her children by Mr. Richard Woolley. Residuary legatee & executrix:—my wife, Elizabeth. Overseers:—William Dennyson of Stortford. Signed:—Edward Willey. Witnesses:—Robt. Dukes, Edward Warner (mark). Proved:—10 January, 1615–16. (Commissary Court of London, Essex & Herts, 10 Jan. 1615–16 [torn], Abstract.)

This will proves Edward to be the son of John and Joan Willie, because Edward refers to "my cousin William Dennyson of Stortford." His wife Elizabeth, named as executrix, was Elizabeth Jardfield and their marriage was recorded in the Parish Register of the Church of St. Michaels, Bishop's Stortford, as follows:

1581 Edward Welley and Elizabeth Jardfeild—Jan. 18.

The will of George[3] Willey, Thorley is dated 10 Sept. 1612.—to be buried in Thorley churche yard—to my eldest sonne *George Willey* & his heis all my *lands whatsoever* in Thorley on condition he suffer my wife Mary (Brett) to have her abode in the house I now dwell in with free liberty to do her necessary business as bakeinge & brewinge & liberty at all times to come to the fyer in the hale, during her life, & he pay her £3 yearly—provided always if my said wife dislike to remain in the said house or shall *not* remain a widowe, he shall pay her 20/ more a year—*also* that he pay my younger sonne *John Willey* £10 at age of 21 and my daughter Elizabeth £5 at age of 23, if she marry with consent of *my wife* & overseers he shall pay her £5 more at age of 25. Residue to my wife *Mary*, executor.

My master the right wors'. Sr. John Leventhorpe of Sabridgworth knt. & my reverend Friend and worthy Theophilus Aylmer of Hadham Magna (Much Hadham) Dr. of Divinity, Overseers—to each iijS iiijd.

Wit. Alexander Strange, Vicar of Laiston, George Brett, Robert Dukes, Richard Godfrey, John Haver.

Pd. at Stortford *3 Oct. 1612 by Mary the relict*, (Consistory of London 139 Hamer.).

George[3] Willey of Thorley son of John[2] & Joan (Marsead), Willie born ——; buried —— 1612; m. Mary Brett dau. of Nicholas Brett of Much Hadham, Co. Herts (Herts Gen'l. Vol. 3, p. 82–83).

i. George, Eldest son.
ii. John, not 21 in 1612.*
iii. Elizabeth.

The Wylley Family of Bishops Stortford

About 1483 John Wylley paid 12 pence church rental in *Stortford* on Lynchwell, meadow (page 140 Glasscock's Records St. Michaels church) and in 1490 William Willey "harness maker made repairs to the church" (Ibid. p. 21).

This clearly indicates that the Wylley family was established in Bishops Stortford at least 60 years before the Parish Registers were begun in Stortford; viz, 1561.

1st Generation

John Wylley born ——.; wife unknown.

1525/6 John Wylley Church Warden—Stortford—(Glasscock's Rec. p. 112).

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* 1619 Oct. 29 "John Willy singleman" bur. (Stortford).
1623 Aug. 22 " " " ".

1528 Item—"Master Wylleys Bonfer" 22 pence (Ibid. p. 40).
1530 and 1541 John Willey appears in Hadham Hall Court Rolls.
1538 John Willey buys house and land in Stortford (Herts Gen).
1545 John Willeye (of Stortford) pays subsidy tax of 22 shillings in Stortford (Ibid., Vol. 2, p. 276).

2ND GENERATION

1543 Edward Wylley buys 2 houses *in Stortford* (Herts Gen. Vol. 1, p. 155).
1545 Edward Wylley pays subsidy tax of 3 shillings in Stortford (Ibid. Vol. 2, p. 276).
1547 Edward Wylley *Church Warden*, Stortford (Glasscock's Rec. p. 112).
1547 Item: paid to the above said Edward Wylley "for grene byse a quarter of a pound", Church Warden accounts (Ibid p. 48).
1549 Item Edward Wylley, Church Warden (Glasscock's Rec. p. 50).
1549/50 Edward Wylley Church Warden much in evidence in Church Warden accounts—in which the following: "My ffather JOHN WYLLAY" (Ibid. page 51).
1556/8 Will of John Wyllaye, w. Johan, s. Rich. s. Geo. das. Johan & Ellen.
1559 Rec. of Edward Wylley "an oblicason" (Ibid. p. 54).
1569/71 Edward Wylley collector (Glasscock's Rec. p. 156).
1577 May 9th "Edward Wellay gent", buried (Parish Register).
1580 April 27 Elizabeth Welley, buried (Parish Register).

The will of John Wyllaye of Stortford in the County of Herts, grocer, is dated, 17 June, 1556. I John Wyllaye of Stortford in the Caunty of Hertf. Grocer—to be buryed tn the Church of Stortford. To my son *Rychard* Wyllay my tent. in Thorley Co. Herts. called 'Reves' with all its lands etc & all my lands called 'Reves Plomers' & 'layes' & my two peces of lande in Thorley, one pece of fyve acres lyeth in Highfeld the other (four acres) lyeth in Myddlefeld & my parcel of wood called "Haseley Grove' in Farnham & Stortford (Herts. & Essex)—to him the said Rycharde & his heyres for ever. To my son *George* Wyllay my messuage in *Therley* called 'Bygges' & 36 acres of lande & also the crofts of pasture two of which I bought of Thomas Grace (8 acres) & the third I bought of Grett Neweman baker (3 acres) & 2 acres of medowe & pasture in Thorley by the hyewey abutting on Stonhyll—to the said George & his heyres for ever—also to the said George my messuage etc. in Stortford called the Sterre & 4 acres lande in the felde called grett lyes three acres lande in Chalke Crofte thre acres lande in the felde called gret halfe acres an acre & halfe lande in Apton feld in Stortford I late bowght of George Thompson gent—to the said George & his heyres for ever. To my dowter *Johan Wyllay* my land in *Wrytfeld* in Stortford (4 acres) to her & her heyres for ever. To my dowter *Eleyn Wyllaye* 3 acres land in Wyndhelfelde in Benehoke & 6 acres in the peces abutting upon *parke lane* and 2 acres in Brodefeld in Stortford I late bought of George Tompson gent. *Johan my wife* to have all above lands till my said children are 18 years keeping them to scole & bringing them up in vertu & lernyng if she die before, her next kinsman to have the keeping of them & their lands. Residue to my said wife, my sole executric. My son in law Henry Somerset to be overseer, to whom . . . (Signed) me John Wyllay.

Wit: Thomas Barnard of Clavering Rychard Robins (?) & Henry Percelye of Stortford. Exhibited 12 Dec. 1558. (Comr. of London Essex & Herts—Original Torn & with holes in places).

The will of John Willay of Stortford, grocer, mentions *Son Rychard* to whom is given a tenement in Thorley called "REVES" and lands called "Reves Plomers" and layes. Also son *George* Wyllay a messuage in Thorley called "Bygges"—also messuage in Stortford called "the Sterre". To daughter Johan Wyllay

"my land in Wrytfeld in Stortford". To daughter Ellen Wyllay "3 acres in Wyndhelfeld". The wife Johan to all above lands until his children are 18 years old. His son-in-law Henry Somerset. No mention made of John Willie of Thorley who 16 years earlier had married Joan Marsead, nor Edward Willay of Stortford.

JOHN[1] WYLLAY of Stortford, b. abt. 1515; d before Dec. 12, 1558; pd. subsidy tax 1545, church warden; m. about 1536, JOHAN.

i. Richard[2], b. ——.
ii. George[2], b: before 1540.
iii. John[2], b. ——; m. Henry Somerset about 1570.
iv. Ellen[2], b. ——; m. George[2] Jacobs, son of George[1] Jacobs Sept. 7, 1572.
Children of George[2] and Ellen (Wyllay) Jacobs; bp. in Stortford.
1 Williams[3], bp. Aug. 9, 1573.
2 George[3], bp. Jan 30, 1574; m. Margaret; bur. Apr. 6, 1632—Margaret bur. Nov. 15, 1639.
Children of George and Margaret Jacobs
i. Margaret[4], bp. Apr. 19, 1619.
ii. Sarah[4], bp. Nov. 25, 1622; d. May 16, 1624.
iii. Anna[4], bp. Jan. 22, 1624.
iv. James[4], bp. Nov. 16, 1630.
3 Joan, bp. Feb. 4, 1576; m. Edward Marshall 1605. Children: Helen, Joan & Margaret (Marshall) all died in infancy.
4 John, bp. Aug. 20, 1579.

3D GENERATION, STORTFORD

WILL OF EDWARD[3] WILLEY, son of Edward[2] (d. 1577) and Elizabeth (d. 1580) of Stortford Co. Herts, yeoman; dated: 2 November, 1613.

I bequeath to each of my children 12d. each (children not named). Residuary legatee & Executor:—my wife, Thomasine (Vinton). Signed:—Edward Wylley. Wit: Edward Chaundler, John Vinton, Thomas Barnarde, scrivenor. Proved:—14 March 1613–14. (Commissary Court of London, Essex & Herts, 14 Mar. 1613–14. Abstract).

EDWARD[3] WELLEY (Edward[2], [?] JOHN[1]) of Stortford (buried 11 Feb. 1613); m. Thomasyn Vynton, Nov. 10, 1577. "Thamasine Willy widdow" bur. Jan. 31, 1622; probably dau. of Thos. Vinton of Farnham, Co. Herts.

i. John[4], bp. Mar. 5, 1578.
ii. Edward[4], bp. Nov. 20, 1580.
iii. Marie[4], bp. Jul. 15, 1583.
iv. Alice[4], bp. May 5, 1586.
v. Richard[4], bp. Jan. 1, 1589.
vi. Thomas[4], bp. Jun. 3, 1593.
vii. Thomasyn, bp. Dec. 26, 1596.

1594 Thos. Vinton buys from Edward[3] Willey and Thomasine (Vinton) messuage and land in Stortford (Herts Genl. Vol. 3, p. 150).

Edward Willey of Thorley should not be confused with Edward Welley of Stortford. The Thorley Willie had Joan, Sarah, Elizabeth, Mary, Edward, George & Daniel. No child except Edward was named as were the children of Edward Willie & Elizabeth of Thorley—this indicated that the relationship between the two Edwards to be remote.

NOTE: An Edward Willy married Elizabeth Patch in Sabridgworth Jan. 12, 1618.

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CORRECTIONS—DECEMBER, 1936

Page 6 18th line from bottom before "daughter" add "grand".

Page 8 15th line from the top erase "John" and substitute "Tobias".

Page 11 10th line from the bottom erase "John" and substitute "Johan".

CORRECTIONS to "Abbotts of Bishop's Stortford" JULY, 1930

Page 1 correct 1st par. of "second generation" lines 2 & 3 to read "his wife was Bridgett Willie probably related to Thomas Miller" (M. A. Trin. Coll. Camb., 1588).

Page 2, 10th line from bottom after "Agnes" add Bayford, Nov. 6, 1625, at Farnham, Co. Essex. In footnote 2nd line erase "thought to be" after "Agnes."

COMPILER'S NOTE.

Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, England, is known or assumed to be the English home of many important American families such as Abbotts, Emersons, Earles, Chandlers, Millers, Garys, Danes, Denisons, Disborough, Denney, Bennett, and doubtless many others. The compiler cordially invites correspondence from descendants of the above named families, especially those who through their own searches may help to establish the true relationships of the above families to each other.

DR. SPENCER MILLER,
661 Glenneyre St.,
Laguna Beach,
California.

January, 1936

ADDITIONS (Par. Reg. Thorley) DECEMBER, 1936

Page 9 13th line from the bottom erase 3 children of George [3] Willey and Mary Brett and add "married Jan. 20, 1583".

i. Mary, bp. May 1, 1586.
ii. George, eldest son, bp. May 3, 1588.
iii. Elizabeth, bp. Sept. 19, 1591.
iv. John, bp. Nov. 28, 1595; d. Nov. 28, 1595.

Edward [3] Willey of Thorley, Co. Herts. son of John & Joan Willey mar. Jan. 18, 1581 Elizabeth Jardfield and had

i. Joan, bp. Jul. 21, 1583; mar. Richard Wooley before 1615.
ii. John, bp. Jul. 15, 1585; alive 1615.
iii. Sara, bp. Apr. 30, 1587; alive 1615.
iv. George, bp. Dec. 7, 1589; d. Dec. 8, 1589.
v. Elizabeth, bp. Mar. 4, 1591; alive 1615.
vi. Edward, bp. Dec. 26, 1593; alive 1615.
vii. George, bp. Oct. 10, 1596; alive 1615.
viii. Mary, bp. Aug. 13, 1599; alive 1615.
ix. Daniel, bp. Nov. 13, 1603; alive 1615.

Page 7 add at the bottom of the page the following: William [1] Denison of Thorley, bro. of John [1] Denison had the following children:

i. Mary, bp. Sep. 13, 1583.
ii. John, bp. Dec. 24, 1585.
iii. Edward, bp. Jul. 6, 1589.
iv. Elizabeth, bp. Mar. 11, 1591/2.

ADDITIONS (Par. Reg. Little Hadham, Co. Herts.) DECEMBER, 1936

William Denison of Little Hadham, Co. Herts, mar. Oct. 11, 1607, Elizabeth Snowt (or Snowe) and had

i. William, bp. Aug. 17, 1608; d. Sep. 22, 1608.
ii. Thomas, bp. Sep. 18, 1609; d. Dec. 18, 1609.
iii. Grace, bp. Feb. 3, 1610.
iv. Elizabeth, bp. Mar. 6, 1613.
v. Mary, bp. May 11, 1617.

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